



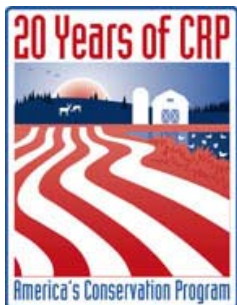
Georgia Farm Service Agency Newsletter

June/July 2006

United States Department of Agriculture

Volume 3, Issue 4

USDA Celebrates 20 Years of Conservation Reserve Program



The U.S. Department of Agriculture is celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Since the first signup in March 1986, CRP has become the nation's largest and most successful conservation program on private lands. Program enrollment today stands at 35.9 million acres, providing \$1.7 billion in annual rental payments to program participants in fiscal year 2005. In Georgia, there are 306,156 acres currently enrolled, providing \$12.1 million in annual rental payments.

Controlling soil erosion was the primary reason Congress created the program. Today, CRP is responsible for saving an estimated 450 million tons of topsoil every year.

CRP is popular with producers and landowners. Mr. Frederick Leo Bateman of Mitchell County has been a strong supporter of the program and talked about his love of everything outdoors, especially pine trees, in an interview with Norma Hornsby, Mitchell County Executive Director.

Frederick Leo Bateman

Frederick Leo Bateman of Mitchell County, Camilla, Georgia, started planting pine trees as a small boy alongside his father who was in the timber business. In 1955, because of his love for the land, trees, horses, wildlife, and everything outdoors, he began a farming operation with his father. They grew peanuts, cotton, tobacco, and, of course, pine trees. Some years later, Bateman's sons became a part of the farming operation, and his family bought a 2,500 acre ranch in Montana. There, they grow cattle and use 23,000 acres of government grazing, as permitted.



Mr. Bateman

Mr. Bateman, who is known as Freddie to everyone locally, is a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participant. Up until 10

years ago, he participated in all of the Farm Service Agency programs that were available to producers who row crop. However, the CRP program has provided the cost-shares for establishing his 177-acre longleaf pine practice, as well as annual rental payments since 1998. Bateman is proud of his longleaf pines and also his 1,250 acres of slash pines. He looks forward to the necessary timber burning and the preparation of wildlife food plots for the bobwhite quail and the deer that are so plentiful in Mitchell County. He considers horseback riding his only "bad habit." The country roads that lead through his Woodbine Plantation with the beautiful oak and pine trees make everyone want to observe such scenery from horseback. This breath-taking beauty has been developed by a man who for years has focused on buying land and planting trees.



Country roads leading through Woodbine Plantation make everyone want to observe such scenery from horseback.

"Now that timber is cheap," says Bateman, "beginning farmers need to include cattle in their operations." Through his own experience with cattle, he believes that prices stay better longer than with growing commodities such as peanuts, cotton, and tobacco. He says, "Take care of your own operation." This is the best advice that he can give to a beginning farmer or an experienced one.

Freddie Bateman's farm operation will be passed on to his family someday. For now, he will continue to be as active as his health permits in looking after an operation that started in the early 1940's with a father who was in the timber business and a son who loved everything outdoors, especially pine trees.

For more information on CRP, the Website address is <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>. The Website address for CRP 20th anniversary information is www.fsa.usda.gov/crp20.htm.

Director's Message

Once again, office consolidation is a topic of discussion among U.S. Department of Agriculture and Farm Service Agency (FSA) managers. Here in Georgia, the State Committee was asked to review delivery of services in the State, including optimal placement of staff and service centers. When the number of offices comes up for discussion, Georgia is always vulnerable. We have 83 offices distributed throughout the State, with 28 of those offices having three or fewer employees in them. By comparison, Alabama runs about the same size program and has only 50 offices. Under tight budgets adding more employees is not an option. In fact, as you recall, FSA has been reducing the number of employees in the State. Ten percent of the workforce left the payroll this past year through a buyout/earlyout program.

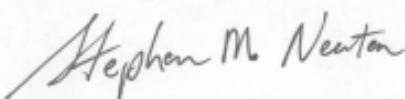
Running an office with three or fewer employees is not impossible, but it is a challenge. FSA offers 54 different programs to the farming community. Having expertise in all programs with two or three employees, much less having the time to sign folks up for the programs and keeping up with all the Federally-required paperwork, puts extreme duress on employees and short changes farmers. The State Committee strongly believes that if FSA is to continue to provide a high standard of service to the farming community with fewer and fewer employees then office consolidation has to be given full consideration.

Most people, in fact, agree with this point. The difficulty then comes in deciding which offices to consolidate. So far we haven't gotten any volunteers. To help this process along, the State Committee came up with three criteria that would help qualify an office for consideration. If an office met two out of three criteria then they would be considered for review. The criteria are: 1) within fifteen miles of another office, 2) a shared management office, and 3) low workload and/or staffing. This process yielded 16 offices for review. They are: Dougherty, Seminole, Pulaski, Ware, Wheeler, Baker, Evans, Hall, Houston, Johnson, Lanier, Brantley, Walker, Greene, Coweta, and Irwin/Ben Hill.

The last office mentioned, Irwin/Ben Hill, is under review because the two county committees have already been discussing consolidation and if they were going to be paired with another office, then they wanted to be in control of the process. The State Committee wants to encourage that discussion and cooperation.

Again, let me emphasize this plan is still under review. By requirements of law, public hearings will be held and Congress will be given a 120-day notification period before anything happens and we need things to happen. I know no one likes the idea of change, but change is already happening in the way we are able to do business. The State Committee and the State Director strongly believe that in the end, these adjustments can help provide a better working environment for employees and, more importantly, better service to farmers.

Sincerely,



Georgia State FSA Newsletter

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The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) is the main source for information contained in this educational newsletter. Eligibility and participation for all FSA programs is determined in accordance with FSA rules and regulations. Contact your local FSA Service Center to determine program eligibility.

The Georgia Farm Service Agency State Newsletter is published by the Georgia FSA State Office. Contact your local USDA Service Center - Farm Service Agency listed in the phone book, weekdays 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. to obtain a free subscription, make address corrections, or be removed from the mailing list.

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Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in any meeting/event/function should contact Kula C. Moore, 706-546-2269.

Farm/City Day in Jeff Davis County

On the first Friday in May, for the past 12 years, the farm of Herman and Corine Sellers located in Jeff Davis County comes alive with people of all ages and all occupations. The Sellers' farm is a perfect place for all to have a day of enjoyment. From peaches to pigs, potato digging to baby chicks, hayrides to hay baling, goat milking to horse petting, baby alligators to cattle showing, cotton combines to tractors, this is the place to be. Of special interest to everyone is the chance to see the Sellers' hog operation. From the feed-out lots to the processed pork products, it is all located on this farm.

This day has been aptly named Farm/City Day because a coalition of local farmers and ranchers, business owners, various branches of government, bankers, and an array of others join together to present the role each plays in bringing farm products from the farm to the city. Each participant sets up a booth or has some type of display for visitors.

The Sellers play host to approximately 3,500 people each year. There were 1,200 children enrolled for the event from Jeff Davis, Appling, Coffee and Wheeler County schools.



Student volunteer assisting in FSA booth.

According to Barbara Connell, FSA's County Executive Director for Jeff Davis County, each year the Jeff Davis FSA office has a special booth for the children. This year FSA had the most popular booth around. Thanks to Nita McLeod, Middle School Agricultural Director (who is also sister to FSA Program Technician Janiece Williams), there were several student volunteers putting

agriculture-related tattoos on the children. Bags with agricultural coloring books, activity books, pencils and other items were supplied by FSA.

Stacia Bennett, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ricky Bennett, had a show heifer and baby calf on display for the kids to visit. Stacia is one of several students in Jeff Davis County who have purchased cattle with Rural Youth Loans from FSA. Stacia has just been elected to serve as the State FFA Vice-President.



Stacia Bennett at Farm/City Day.

Important Dates calendar for FSA Programs

Final Availability Dates for Loans and LDP's:

31-Mar	Wheat, Oats
31-May	Cotton, Corn, Dry Peas, Grain Sorghum, Lentils, Mustard Seed, Safflower Seed, Small Chickpeas, Soybeans, Sunflower Seeds

Final Crop Reporting Dates:

15-Jul	All crops, except small grains
15-Jul	Final date to pay on "certified" cotton acres without penalty

NAP Insurance Sales Closing Dates:

1-Dec	Honey
31-Jan	All annually planted crops, both spring and fall
15-Aug	Perennial crops, forage crops for hay and grazing

Additional Program Deadlines:

Now	Inquire and Sign-up CRP Continuous Practices such as Riparian Buffers
Now	Inquire and Sign-up for Bobwhite Quail Habitat Buffers (selected counties only)
Now	Emergency Conservation approved applicants - report completed practices to FSA
Now	County offices accepting CRP offers to re-enroll or extend. Deadline April 28
1-Apr-31-Aug	CRP Nesting Season
1-Jun	2006 Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) Sign-up Period Ends (no fee)
3-Jul	Final Date to Request Reconstitution of DCP Farm
15-Aug	All Perennial Crops, All Value Loss Crops, All Grass Type Crops for Hay and Grazing
30-Sept	Final Date to Enroll in 2006 DCP (\$100 late fee per farm)
1-Nov	Tobacco Buy Out Program Successor In Interest Contracts for 2007, as well as contract transfers between family members due to death of contract holder or moving "purchased" quota

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Price Support & Conservation

CRP Re-enrollments and Extensions (REX) Phase II

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) participants with contracts scheduled to expire between September 30, 2008, through September 30, 2010, have been informed of their options for re-enrollment or contract extensions. Georgia has 1,497 contracts representing 55,885 acres eligible for re-enrollment as follows:

Extension	Contracts	Acres
2-year	746	28,728
3-year	253	8,597
4-year	176	6,608
5-year	153	5,613

Offers eligible for 10-year contract re-enrollments total 169, representing 6,340 acres. No contracts were found to be eligible for 15-year re-enrollment. These CRP participants have until June 30, 2006, to advise their local FSA county office of their intention of participation. A paid compliance review has to be conducted before December 31, 2006, on the acres offered before the County Committee can approve the contracts. This review is made to ensure the CRP participant is in compliance with his/her contract. If the contract is found out of compliance, the CRP participant will NOT be allowed to extend or re-enroll under CRP/REX phase II.

CRP is a voluntary program that helps agricultural producers safeguard environmentally sensitive land by planting resource-conserving covers to control erosion, improve water and air quality, and enhance wildlife habitat. In return, USDA/FSA provides CRP participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance. For more information on CRP, contact your local FSA office or visit the FSA Website at www.fsa.usda.gov.

CRP Bobwhite Quail Habitat Expanded

CRP Practice CP33 "Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds" has been expanded to additional Georgia counties. Georgia was originally allocated 8,600 acres for practice CP33 to be located in an area of the State determined best suited for the practice. The Georgia State Technical Committee, with the recommendation of FSA's Wildlife Subcommittee, recommended the original area be

expanded. See the map of Georgia for the counties now eligible for CP33.

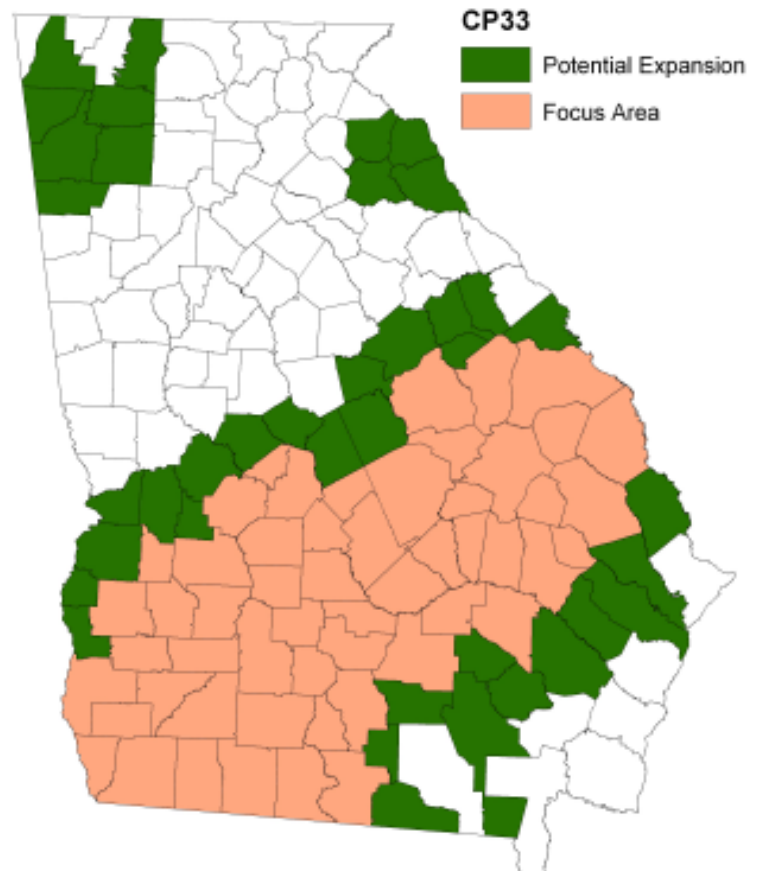
The purpose of CP33 is to reestablish habitat for upland birds which includes bobwhite quail. Over the past decade, quail habitats have become endangered. The primary purpose of this program is to provide food and cover for quail and uplands birds in cropland areas.

Practice CP33 is a CRP practice which can be enrolled by any eligible landowner at any time. The land offered as a field buffer must have been cropped in four of the years from 1996 to 2001.

Signup incentives of up to \$10 per acre per year (10-year program) are available. Participants will receive the maximum calculated rental rate for acreage put into this program.

For more information visit our Website www.fsa.usda.gov and click on Conservation Programs.

Counties Eligible for CRP Bobwhite Quail Habitat



County Committee Elections

Committee Nominations Open June 15

Nominations for candidates to run for the Farm Service Agency county committee election representing producers in various Local Administrative Areas (LAA's) will be accepted from June 15 through August 1, 2006. Producers who are eligible to vote in these LAA's and who participate or cooperate in an FSA program and are of legal voting age may be nominated to serve on their county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as candidates. Also, organizations representing socially disadvantaged minorities and women farmers or ranchers may also nominate candidates. A blank nomination form (FSA-669A) is enclosed in this newsletter and is also available at all local FSA offices and online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/elections/Default.asp>.

LAA's are elective areas and LAA boundaries are available at each county office. Elections are held each year to replace a member whose three-year term will expire. All counties will be holding an election for a person to represent different LAA's. Please review the list of LAA's by county that are eligible for election.

Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by November 3 and must be returned to the FSA county office or postmarked by December 4, 2006. All producers are encouraged to participate. The county committee provides a local input on commodity price support loans and payments; establishes allotments and yields; conservation programs; and disaster assistance payments and programs.

More information on the elections is available at the county office or online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

County Committee Elections Dates

- **June 15, 2006:**
Nomination Period Begins.
- **August 1, 2006:**
Last Day to File Nomination Forms.
- **November 3, 2006:**
Ballots Mailed to Eligible Voters.
- **December 4, 2006:**
Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center.
- **January 1, 2007:**
Elected committee members and alternates take office.

Georgia LAA's Conducting Elections in 2006

County	LAA	County	LAA
Appling	3	Lanier	1
Atkinson	1	Lanier	2
Bacon	1	Laurens	3
Baker	1	Laurens	4
Ben Hill	2	Lee	2
Berrien	3	Lowndes	2
Bleckley	1	Lowndes	3
Bleckley	3	McDuffie	1
Brantley	2	McDuffie	4
Brantley	3	Macon	2
Brooks	3	Marion	4
Bulloch	2	Marion	5
Burke	2	Miller	1
Calhoun	2	Mitchell	2
Candler	2	Montgomery	2
Carroll	1	Montgomery	4
Carroll	4	Morgan	2
Coffee	1	Morgan	4
Colquitt	1	Oconee	3
Cook	1	Oconee	1
Coweta	1	Peach	2
Coweta	2	Peach	3
Crisp	1	Pierce	1
Decatur	1	Pulaski	2
Dodge	1	Putnam	3
Dooly	3	Putnam	5
Dougherty	2	Randolph	2
Early	2	Randolph	3
Effingham	3	Screven	3
Elbert	1	Seminole	2
Elbert	5	Sumter	1
Emanuel	2	Sumter	5
Evans	2	Tattnall	1
Floyd	2	Taylor	1
Floyd	3	Telfair	3
Gordon	4	Terrell	1
Gordon	5	Thomas	3
Grady	1	Tift	1
Greene	3	Toombs	3
Greene	5	Turner	2
Habersham	1	Union	1
Hall	2	Union	2
Hall	3	Walker	3
Hart	1	Walton	3
Hart	3	Walton	4
Henry	1	Ware	2
Henry	4	Washington	1
Houston	2	Wayne	1
Irwin	2	Webster	3
Jackson	5	Webster	5
Jeff Davis	3	Wheeler	2
Jefferson	3	Wilcox	1
Jefferson	5	Wilkes	2
Jenkins	2	Wilkes	5
Johnson	2	Worth	2
Lamar	2		
Lamar	5		

Farm Loan Programs

Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Act and the Service Members Civil Relief Act

Farm Service Agency is committed to providing service above and beyond the normal scope of daily servicing to assist FSA borrowers who are impacted by military deployment. This includes regular military personnel, and National Guard and Reservist borrowers who are called to active duty. These individuals may be entitled to additional servicing options under the Service Members Act and the National Defense Act.

The National Defense Act provides for the non-accrual of interest and deferral of payments for borrowers who are on active duty during war or a National emergency. The non-accrual of interest is not considered as debt forgiveness.

Effective October 28, 2004, during war or a National emergency as declared by the President or Congress, the existing Farm Loan Program payments of borrowers on active duty will be deferred and interest will not accrue beginning on the date in which they enter active duty. The due dates of payments due during or after such active duty will be deferred for a period of time equal to the time the borrower is on active duty during the war or a National emergency. This period of deferral will be added to the end of the loan term.

Farm Service Agency will not foreclose on the property of a borrower in the armed forces during the borrower's tenure of service and for three months thereafter. According to David Laster, Georgia Farm Loan Programs Chief, "no Farm Loan Program account of a borrower on active duty will be accelerated or foreclosed during this time period." Additionally, Treasury and internal administrative offsets will be discontinued once a borrower is ordered to report for induction or military service, and any payments received as a result of offset after the date the borrower is called to active duty will be refunded. This suspension begins when the borrower is ordered to report for induction or military service and continues during the time of active duty and three months thereafter.

Provisions of the Service Members Act also affect Guaranteed Lenders with borrowers called to active duty. This may include interest rate reduction and stay on

liquidation action. FSA guaranteed loans with an interest rate in excess of 6 percent may be eligible for interest rate reduction during the period of the borrower's active military service.

Guaranteed lenders will ensure that the benefits of the Service Members Act are promptly and properly extended to cover guaranteed borrowers. Servicing actions taken in accordance with the Service Members Act will not jeopardize the lender's rights under the loan guarantee.

For additional information interested persons should contact their local FSA office.

Thank you!



FY 2006 Funding Update

Borrowers and applicants are encouraged to file their loan applications as soon as possible. Funding for loans under FSA's Farm Loan Programs is made available by Congress each year, beginning October 1st. As the lending season progresses, loan funds may become depleted for certain loan types.

As of May 15, 2006

Loan Type	Allocations	Obligations
Direct Farm Ownership (FO)	\$1,207,350	\$1,207,350
Direct Farm Operating (OL)	\$18,652,000	\$13,845,909
Guaranteed Farm Ownership	\$37,694,000	\$20,244,374
Guaranteed Farm Operating	\$37,392,000	\$27,538,554

Locate your FSA County Offices

COUNTY	LOCATION	PHONE
APPLING	Baxley	912-367-6684
ATKINSON	Pearson	912-422-3363
BACON	Alma	912-632-4611
BAKER	Newton	229-734-5272
BEN HILL	Fitzgerald	229-423-2041
BERRIEN	Nashville	229-686-5557
BLECKLEY - TWIGGS	Cochran	478-934-6571
BRANTLEY-CHARLTON	Nahunta	912-462-5718
BROOKS	Quitman	229-263-4116
BULLOCH	Statesboro	912-871-2600
BURKE	Waynesboro	706-554-2109
CALHOUN	Morgan	229-849-2415
CANDLER	Metter	912-685-2635
CARROLL-DOUGLAS- FULTON-HARALSON- PAULDING	Carrollton	770-834-2097
COFFEE	Douglas	912-384-4811
COLQUITT	Moultrie	229-985-6509
COOK	Adel	229-896-3206
COWETA-HEARD- MERIWETHER-TROUP	Newnan	770-251-4282
CRISP	Cordele	229-273-4148
DECATUR	Bainbridge	229-246-5773
DODGE	Eastman	478-374-2531
DOOLY	Vienna	229-268-4131
DOUGHERTY	Albany	229-430-8510
EARLY	Blakely	229-723-3193
EFFINGHAM-BRYAN- CHATHAM	Springfield	912-754-6664
ELBERT-OGLETHORPE	Elberton	706-283-3021
EMANUEL	Swainsboro	478-237-8866
EVANS	Claxton	912-739-4527
FLOYD-POLK	Rome	706-291-5654
GORDON-BARTOW- CHEROKEE-COBB-MURRAY- PICKENS-WHITFIELD	Calhoun	706-629-2582
GRADY	Cairo	229-377-1607
GREENE-HANCOCK- TALIAFERRO	Greensboro	706-453-2086
HABERSHAM-RABUN- STEPHENS-WHITE	Clarksville	706-754-4211
HALL-DAWSON-FORSYTH- LUMPKIN	Gainesville	770-536-0549
HART-FRANKLIN	Hartwell	706-376-5451
HENRY-BUTTS-CLAYTON- FAYETTE-SPALDING	McDonough	770-957-7473
HOUSTON	Perry	478-987-2271
IRWIN	Ocilla	229-468-7491
JACKSON-BANKS-MADISON	Commerce	706-335-8111
JEFF DAVIS	Hazelhurst	912-375-2015

COUNTY	LOCATION	PHONE
JEFFERSON-GLASCOCK	Louisville	478-625-7771
JENKINS	Millen	478-982-4281
JOHNSON	Wrightsville	478-864-3407
LAMAR-MONROE-PIKE- UPSON	Barnesville	770-358-0787
LANIER-CLINCH	Lakeland	229-482-3995
LAURENS-WILKINSON	Dublin	478-272-1757
LEE	Leesburg	229-759-9267
LOWNDES-ECHOLS	Valdosta	229-242-0575
MACON	Oglethorpe	478-472-7012
MARION-CHATTAHOOCHEE- HARRIS-MUSCOGEE- TALBOT	Buena Vista	229-649-4495
MCDUFFIE-COLUMBIA- RICHMOND-WARREN	Thomson	706-595-1339
MILLER	Colquitt	229-758-5219
MITCHELL	Camilla	229-336-0171
MONTGOMERY-TREUTLEN	Mount Vernon	912-583-4541
MORGAN-JASPER-NEWTON	Madison	706-342-1353
OCONEE-BARROW- CLARKE	Watkinsville	706-769-3987
PEACH-BIBB-CRAWFORD	Byron	478-956-6484
PIERCE	Blackshear	912-449-5303
PULASKI	Hawkinsville	478-783-1181
PUTNAM-BALDWIN-JONES	Eatonton	706-485-2341
RANDOLPH-CLAY-QUITMAN	Cuthbert	229-732-3001
SCREVEN	Sylvania	912-564-7101
SEMINOLE	Donalsonville	229-524-2434
SUMTER-SCHLEY	Americus	229-924-4056
TATTNALL	Reidsville	912-557-6706
TAYLOR	Butler	478-862-3645
TELFAIR	McRae	229-868-5696
TERRELL	Dawson	229-995-5811
THOMAS	Thomasville	229-226-3462
TIFT	Tifton	229-382-2775
TOOMBS	Lyons	912-526-6154
TURNER	Ashburn	229-567-3304
UNION-FANNIN-GILMER- TOWNS	Blairsville	706-745-2012
WALKER-CATOOSA- CHATTOOGA-DADE	LaFayette	706-638-1558
WALTON-DEKALB- GWINNETT-ROCKDALE	Monroe	770-267-8363
WARE	Waycross	912-283-6420
WASHINGTON	Tennille	478-552-6071
WAYNE-CAMDEN-GLYNN- LIBERTY-LONG-MCINTOSH	Jesup	912-427-2502
WEBSTER-STEWART	Preston	229-828-2015
WHEELER	Alamo	912-568-7411
WILCOX	Rochelle	229-365-2231
WILKES-LINCOLN	Washington	706-678-2630
WORTH	Sylvester	229-776-6985

Georgia Farm Service Agency
355 E. Hancock Avenue, Stop 100
Athens, Georgia 30601-2775

Producers are reminded when they have an address change due to 911 upgrades or relocation, to please contact your local FSA office to update your address.

Farmers Invited to Register for USDA Online Services



During the 2006 Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie, the USDA Farm Service Agency will register farmers to conduct USDA business online. This will be accomplished through a partnership with Fort Valley State University and the use of their mobile satellite computer unit.

Assistance will be available for producers wishing to obtain a USDA eAuthentication Service Level 2 Customer Account. This provides a single user ID and password that grants access to the Customer Statement, and many other USDA e-Services, including submitting forms online through USDA e-File, such as eLDP and eDCP.

Visitors to Sunbelt Ag Expo may stop by the Fort Valley State University mobile satellite unit on Tuesday, October 17, from 2 until 4 p.m. or Wednesday, October 18, from 9 until 11 a.m. to receive help from FSA personnel. An email address is required to register. Anyone not having an established email address may stop by the satellite unit prior to the registration times to be assisted by the Fort Valley State University staff in setting up an email address.

Producers are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to register online or view a demonstration on how USDA's online services can save producers time and travel while providing flexibility in managing their USDA business 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Producers may create an account online at any time by going to the USDA eAuthentication site at: www.eauth.egov.usda.gov.